

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO USINFO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

SECSTATE WASHDC 5128

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FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- KISSINGER TRIP

REF: USIA 16232

1. JULY 11 PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
EUROPEAN TRIP AND PLANNED MEETING WITH ISRAELI PRIME
MINISTER RABIN RELY MAINLY ON WIRE SERVICE.

2. IN AL AHAM U.S. OFFICIALS WERE QUOTED IN PARIS
AS SAYING THAT IF INITIAL AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON
PRINCIPAL DISENGAGEMENT CLAUSES, SECRETARY WILL PROBABLY
RESUME HIS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SHUTTLE. CONCERNING NEW
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN SINAI OFFICIAL SOURCE IN
TEL AVIV STATED THAT U.S. IS PLAYING ROLE OF "ACTIVE
PARTNER, AND NOT MEDIATOR AS IT WAS CASE UNTIL LAST
MARCH." AL AHAM ALSO POINTS OUT THAT KISSINGER-
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GROMKO TALKS IN GENEVA FOCUS ON ME AND "U.S. ATTEMPT

TO CONCLUDE SETTLEMENT." BOTH AL AHAM AND AL GOMHOURIYA QUOTE VIEW BY U.S. SOURCES IN GENEVA THAT SECRETARY WILL INFORM RABIN OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CAIRO, WILL ASK FOR SOME CLARIFICATIONS AND WILL REPLY TO RABIN'S QUESTIONS RAISED DURING HIS JUNE VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

3. FROM WASHINGTON, AL AHAM'S CORRESPONDENT KESHISHIAN REPORTS THAT SECRETARY ADVISED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AGAINST BOTH DISCUSSING SECOND SINAI DESENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL WITH PRESS AND FEELING OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO KISHISHIAN, SECRETARY ALSO TOLD NEWSMEN ACCOMPANYING HIM THAT "IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES REQUIRING SETTLEMENT STILL EXIST."

4. AL AKHBAR REPORTS WIRE SERVICES AS SAYING THAT KISSINGER-GROMYKO TALKS ARE CARRIED OUT AMONG INDICATIONS THAT NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN SINAI WILL BE REACHED." SERVICES ALSO REPORTED "NOTICEABLE PROGRESS" IN THIS DIRECTION AND ADMITTED THAT "CRITICAL ISSUES" STILL EXIST. WHILE IN PARIS, SECRETARY SAID THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REQCING ME SETTLEMENT CANNOT BE KNOWN "BEFORE MEETING RABIN AND LETTING ISRAELI VIEWS KNOWN TO GOE." AL AKHBAR ALSO REPORTED THAT U.S. OFFICIALS, WITH SECRETARY, REITERATED THAT, THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS, CONCLUSION HAS BEEN REACHED ON EXTENT OF NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI. THESE OFFICIALS SPECULATED THAT SECRETARY'S NEW SHUTTLE WILL BE RESUMED BY MID-AUGUST FOR ONE OR TWO WEEKS.

5. AL GOMHOURIYA QUOTES MENA DISPATCH ON SECRETARY'S ASTONISHMENT AT PRESS REPORTS THAT NEW DISCENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. ACCORDING TO AFP, SECRETARY "WILL TRY TO CONVINCE RABIN TO SIGN NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT." ON SECRETARY'S STOPOVER IN PARIS, AL GOMHOURIYA QUOTES SECRETARY'S PRESS STATEMENT THAT " IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO VISUALIZE FINAL PICTURE OF ME PEACE BEFORE MEETING PRIME MINISTER RABIN IN BONN."

6. AL AHAM EXCLUSIVELY REPORTS AMBASSADOR EILTS' UNCLASSIFIED

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LONG MEETING WITH FONMIN FAHMY ON THURSDAY AND AMBASSADOR'S EXPECTED DEPARTURE TODAY FOR GENEVA OR BONN TO MEET SECRETARY.

7. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.
RUSSELL

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